

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22-24, 27, 28 and 33.

Please amend claims 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 36 as follows.

Please add the following new claims 37-45.

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 4 41, wherein said metering tray includes a ramp that urges the associated coins that land on said ramp towards an adjacent floor.

7. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 6, wherein said metering tray includes a wall that is positioned directly adjacent an end of said ramp and adjacent an opening to preclude the associated coins from moving directly from said ramp to said coin separating member.

8. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 4 41, further comprising a tab to retard more than one of the associated coins from residing in said at least one coin receiving aperture, said tab being mounted to one of said housing, said metering tray and a hopper.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~40~~ 37, wherein said opening in said tray has a width smaller than the combined diameter of two of the smallest diameter associated coins meant to be sorted by said coin sorting member.

12. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~40~~ 37, wherein at least one of said walls of said tray comprises a substantially parabolic shape.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~40~~ 37, wherein said coin separating member includes a flange extending away from a face of said coin separating member and a projection on said flange proximal said at least one coin receiving aperture.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~40~~ 42, wherein said tray comprises a tab, said tab having an end located adjacent said coin separating member so as to retard more than one of the associated coins from residing in said coin receiving aperture as said aperture moves past said tab.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~36~~ 42, wherein said at least one coin receiving aperture extends from an inner periphery of the separating wheel to said toroidal flange.

21. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~36~~ 42 further comprising a protuberance located on said separation wheel toroidal flange, wherein said protuberance is positioned toward a leading edge of said at least one coin receiving aperture.

22-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~23~~ 36 wherein said floor angles downwardly from said first end wall towards said aperture.

26. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 25 further comprising a ramp connected to said floor and said first side wall wherein said ramp is longer adjacent said first side edge thereof than it is adjacent a second side edge thereof.

27-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~23~~ 36 further comprising a first tab extending away from said second end wall.

31. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~23~~ 36 further comprising a first extension leading from said first side wall to said second end wall and a second extension leading from said second side wall to said second end wall.

32. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 31 further comprising a second tab protruding from said first extension wherein a lower end of said second tab acts as a sweeper.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~23~~ 36 further comprising a stabilizing member protruding away from a bottom surface of said floor.

35. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 23 wherein the tray is of one piece and comprises a thermoplastic material.

36. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture and a toroidal flange connected to and extending away from a face of said separating wheel and located radially outwardly of said at least one coin receiving aperture;

a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is rotatably mounted; and,

a coin feeding construction for regulating the number of associated coins delivered to said separating wheel, said coin feeding construction comprising:

a base wall,

a first side wall,

a second side wall, spaced from said first side wall;

a first end wall connected to said first and second side walls; and

a blocking wall connected to one of said first and second side walls and spaced from another of said first and second side walls to define an exit opening in said coin feeding construction.

37. (New) A coin bank comprising:

a coin separating member comprising a ring-shaped separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture;

a coin sorting member comprising a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported, said wheel housing including at least one coin sorting aperture; and,

a tray mounted above said coin separating member, said tray including a plurality of walls and an opening which limits the number of associated coins passing from said tray to said coin separating member.

38. (New) The assembly of claim 37 wherein an inner periphery of said separating wheel includes at least one slot which is aligned with said at least one coin receiving aperture to allow an edge of an associated coin to protrude therethrough.

39. (New) The assembly of claim 38 wherein said separating wheel includes a central opening which is larger in radius than is a diameter of said at least one coin receiving aperture.

40. (New) The assembly of claim 37 further comprising a toroidal flange which is located on said separating wheel radially outward from said at least one coin receiving aperture.

41. (New) A coin bank comprising:

a housing;

a coin separating and sorting assembly mounted in said housing, said assembly comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture,

a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is rotatably supported, said wheel housing comprising a plurality of coin sorting apertures of different sizes, wherein said at least one coin receiving aperture of said separating wheel selectively overlies each of said plurality of coin sorting apertures;

a tray mounted to said housing above said separating wheel, said tray including a plurality of walls and an opening which limits the number of associated coins passing from said tray to said separating wheel;

a drawer slidably mounted to said housing; and

at least one coin tube supported by said drawer.

42. (New) A coin bank comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture;

a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is rotatably supported, said wheel housing comprising at least one sorting aperture which is sized to allow passage of an associated coin of a defined maximum diameter therethrough; and,

a tray mounted above said coin separating wheel for metering the associated coins passing from said tray to said separating wheel, said tray including a protrusion contacting said wheel housing to support said tray above said wheel housing, said protrusion being located radially inward of said separating wheel at least one coin receiving aperture.

43. (New) A coin bank comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture;

a tray mounted above said separating wheel for metering associated coins passing from said tray to said separating wheel;

a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is rotatably supported;

a coin hopper mounted to said wheel housing and encircling same; and,

wherein said tray is supported by both said coin hopper and said wheel housing.

44. (New) The coin bank of claim 43 wherein said tray comprises:

a wall including a channel that receives a portion of the hopper; and,

a protrusion which rests on said wheel housing.

45. (New) The coin bank of claim 43 wherein said wheel housing includes:

a first portion which is approximately ring-shaped and includes at least one coin sorting aperture; and,

a second portion located in a plane spaced from said first portion, wherein said second portion is encircled by said first portion.